



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
In Cooperation with the West Virginia Department of Agriculture
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 15, 2019

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MAY CROP PRODUCTION

Charleston, West Virginia – On farm hay stocks, as of May 1, 2019, totaled 75,000 tons. This is 50,000 tons less than what was on hand last year at this time. The disappearance of all hay stocks on farms from December 1, 2018 - May 1, 2019, was 695,000 tons, 9 percent less than the December 1, 2017 - May 1, 2018, crop disappearance of 765,000 tons for the same period.

United States – Winter wheat production is forecast at 1.27 billion bushels, up 7 percent from 2018. As of May 1, the United States yield is forecast at 50.3 bushels per acre, up 2.4 bushels from last year's average yield of 47.9 bushels per acre.

All on farm hay stocks stored on United States farms, as of May 1, 2019, totaled 14.9 million tons, down 3 percent from a year ago. Disappearance from December 1, 2018 - May 1, 2019 totaled 64.1 million tons, compared with 69.1 million tons for the same period a year earlier. This marks the lowest May 1 hay stocks since the drought of 2012 and the second lowest since records began in 1950.

Lower May 1 hay stocks are mainly the result of reduced hay production in 2018 due to the continuing decline in harvested acres of alfalfa and lower yields of other hay compared with the previous 4 years, which were some of the highest on record. Production in 2018 was the lowest since 2012 and second lowest since 1976. Additionally, the January 1, 2019 cattle inventory was the highest since 2008.

May 1 hay stocks levels were record lows in Minnesota, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Wisconsin.